stretch between Mohania and Sasaram on National Highway-2 in Bihar is being carried out by the Contractor, M/s LG Engineering & Construction.

**Special package to SSI**

4650. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be leased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lot of small scale industries in and around Delhi and other parts of the country have been closed down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether it is also a fact that our small scale industry is till-equipped and not fully geared to compete with the onslaught of cheap imports; and

(d) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive special package to small scale industries to enable them, to tide over the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) There are reports from a number of institutions including SSI Associations about the closure of several Small Scale Industries in and around Delhi and other parts of the country due to various reasons including globalisation and general industrial slowdown. The information on closed units is, however, not maintained centrally but the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by scheduled commercial Banks. As per the RBI, the number of sick SSI Units in the country during last three years has been as under:

| As at the end of March | No. of sick SSI units |
|---|---|
| 1999 | 306221 |
| 2000 | 304235 |
| 2001 | 249630 |

(b) The main reasons for sickness/closure are inadequacy of credit, technological obsolescence, marketing problems, managerial inadequacies etc.

(c) and (d) Although globalisation has exposed'the Indian SSI sector to greater competition, the sector has resilience to withstand competition. The Government is constantly monitoring the impact of globalisation and WTO arrangements on the economy including the SSIs and has put in several measures to safeguard the interest of domestic industry and to make them competitive both domestically and globally. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, enhanced fiscal support, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management facilities, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation. Protection to these industries is available in the form of raising customs duties up to the bound levels, imposing antidumping duties and countervailing duties, taking safeguard measures in case of surge in imports etc. An inter-ministerial group under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary has been constituted to assess the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and suggest suitable corrective measures. A comprehensive policy package for the promotion and development of small scale industries and to enhance its competitiveness, both domestically and globally, was announced by the Prime Minister on 30th August, 2000. The policy package consists of enhanced fiscal £nd credit support, better infrastructure and marketing facilities and incentives for technology development.

**Relief to SSI from BIFR**

4651. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount blocked in the small scale industries, Bank-wise;

(b) the number of the small scale industries referred to BIFR;

(c) what relief small scale industries have got from BIFR for last three years; and

(d) the number of people employed in the small scale sector as on date?